

Dicie Hansen
497 White Oak Lane
Barrington, IL 60010

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Canadian National Railway Co, *et al* - Control – EJ&E West Company
(STB Finance Docket 35087)

Dear Secretary Williams:

My name is Dicie Hansen and I am a long-time resident of the Barrington area. I am writing to oppose the acquisition of EJ&E West Company by Canadian National Railway Co ("CN").

The EJ&E rail line bifurcates the Barrington area; any change in its use cannot help but have a significant impact on our community. Quite simply, CN's proposal to run 20 freight trains per day on the EJ&E will wreck havoc in the Barrington area in terms of safety, traffic, the environment and the local economy.

- Trains in excess of 5,000 feet will block multiple street level crossings simultaneously **with no way around them**. Emergency vehicles will be unable to reach their destinations in a timely manner.
- Massive traffic backups will cause motorists to seek alternative routes on residential streets posing an increased threat to residents and requiring additional village safety personnel.
- District 220 school buses crisscross the EJ&E on a daily basis and many children walk to school, especially to the high school, located only three blocks from an EJ&E crossing. Student safety will be at greater risk.
- The EJ&E runs along Flint Creek, the major watershed for the Barrington area and along the northwest corner of Cuba Marsh. Increased air pollutants and the potential for hazardous waste spills put our air and water at increased risk.
- The Metra line runs through Barrington, drawing significant numbers of commuters from the surrounding villages and beyond. Conflicts between the commuter and freight lines will contribute to the traffic congestion and increase commuting times.
- The noise pollution from 20 trains a day will be significant. Homes, businesses, the Barrington Area Library, Citizens Park, the Barrington High School will all be adversely affected.
- Lake-Cook Road, Route 59/Hough Street and Route 14 are major traffic thoroughfares for people traversing the Barrington area enroute to another destination. The EJ&E crosses all three roads.

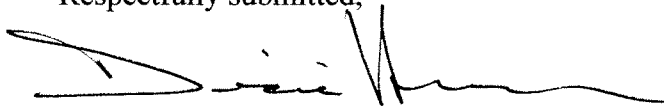
ATTACHMENTS

Dicie Hansen
497 White Oak Lane
Barrington, IL 60010

In reading the filings submitted regarding this proposed transaction, I noted the number of communities and individuals who support the proposal because rail traffic will be diverted from their area. I have attached several of these documents to this letter. In particular, I draw your attention to the letter from Peter Boonstra, Principal of Illiana Christian High School and Gerald Hass, a homeowner in Lansing, Illinois. The very problems they are so eager to reduce will become the problems of the Barrington area.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to consider CN's application with the utmost care. Be aware that a decision to approve the transaction will unalterably change the character of our community to the detriment of our residents, schools and businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dicie Hansen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dicie Hansen
January 9, 2008



ILLIANA
CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

2261 INDIANA AVENUE • LANSING, ILLINOIS 60438-2106

PHONE 708-474-0515

FAX 708-474-0581

www.illianachristian.org

Peter Boonstra Principal - Calvin Scott, Vice Principal

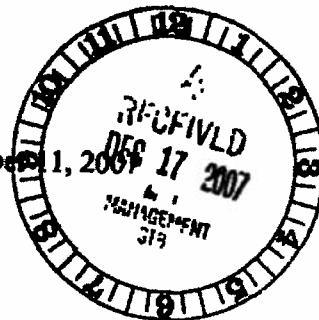
"In the Challenge of His Service"

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22/073

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

December 1, 2007



Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
- Control - EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

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VERIFIED STATEMENT OF
Peter Boonstra
On behalf of Illiana Christian High School

DEC 19 2007

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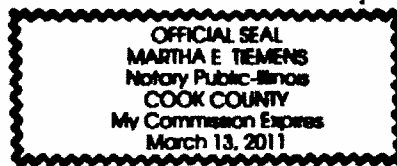
My name is Peter Boonstra and I am Principal of the Illiana Christian High School located at 2261 Indiana Ave, Lansing, Illinois. I have held this position for eight years. I am writing to express my support for Canadian National's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E).

It is my understanding that the acquisition would result in a reduction of train traffic through our town and past my school, I believe from 20 trains daily to seven. This would have a significant positive impact on the quality of education for the 670 students in my school. The positive impact would be two fold. First, fewer students would be delayed in getting to school because they had to wait for a train. The Grand Trunk line cuts across two of the main access roads to my school. Secondly, the numerous interruptions we experience in our classrooms from train horns and noise would be reduced. Teachers often have to stop teaching until the train goes by. If those interruptions can be reduced by more than half, that will have a very positive impact on the quality of education. Finally, there is always a measure of danger around railroad tracks. A reduction in the number of trains here would proportionately reduce the possibility of harm coming to my students or others in this area.

Also, I can speak for the thousands of people who live in the area along the tracks. I know that they moved in knowing they were going to be near a rail line, but the frequency of trains still has a significant negative impact on the peace and quiet of their lives. If there is a means to reduce the frequency of train traffic on the Grand Trunk line that runs through this area, I am sure they would all be supportive of that reduction.

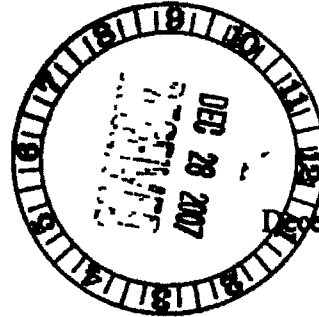
In summary, I urge you to approve the changes necessary to reduce the amount of disruptive train traffic passing through this congested area.


Peter Boonstra, Principal
Illiana Christian High School



Martha Tiemens
12-11-07

~~06/6/07~~



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December 21, 2007

Mr Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S W
Washington, D C. 20423-0001

Re. Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
- Control - EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

221175

VERIFIED STATEMENT OF
Gerald Haan
A homeowner in Lansing, IL.

My name is Gerald Haan and I am a homeowner living at 2023 Hearth Cir , Lansing, Illinois. I have lived in Lansing most of my life I am writing to express my support for Canadian National's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E)

It is my understanding that the acquisition would result in a reduction of train traffic through our town, I believe from 20 trains daily to seven This would have a significant positive impact on the quality of life in Lansing and the surrounding communities. The positive impacts are numerous. There would be less delays getting around in town and in the surrounding communities The Grand Trunk line cuts across most of the main access roads in our community, and since it runs diagonally through town, usually cannot be avoided The numerous interruptions we experience in our homes both day and night would be reduced In the summer, many people cannot sleep with their windows open because of the noise associated with the trains Also our communities have to have emergency services available on both sides of the tracks because of the numerous times that stopped/slow trains disrupt traffic If those interruptions can be reduced by more than half, that will have a very positive impact on the quality of education

Also, I can speak for the thousands of people who live in the area along the tracks I know that they moved in knowing they were going to be near a rail line, but over the years the frequency of trains has increased significantly and has a negative impact on the peace and quiet of our lives If there is a means to reduce the frequency of train traffic on the Grand Trunk line that runs through this area, I am sure they would all be supportive of that reduction

In summary, I urge you to approve the changes necessary to reduce the amount of disruptive train traffic passing through this congested area

Gerald Haan

Gerald Haan, homeowner
Lansing, IL.

~~SECRET~~

DISTRICT OFFICE

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RIVER GROVE ILLINOIS 60171
(708) 453-SKIP
FAX (708) 453-7584

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
314 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-3374
FAX (217) 567-7211



ANGELO "SKIP" SAVIANO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 77TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN - REGISTRATION & REGULATION
EXECUTIVE
APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC SAFETY
PUBLIC UTILITIES
AGING
ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING

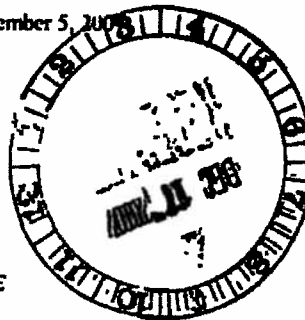
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December 5, 2007



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423

Subject: Canadian National Railway Co., et al - Control - FJ&E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Williams

I have reviewed the transportation impacts of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the FJ&E West Company, and have concluded that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and that it clearly will have no adverse effects on competition. Therefore, I am pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) designated this as a "minor" transaction, as defined by the STB in its Railroad Control regulations, and ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction as quickly as possible.

I am particularly pleased to learn that there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of about 19 trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains, and will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise and grade crossing delays. More significant for the national rail transportation network, removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago will free up capacity for other carriers, and reduced energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads.

I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the FJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be looking at the impacts of this additional traffic in the context of the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that the STB may impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.

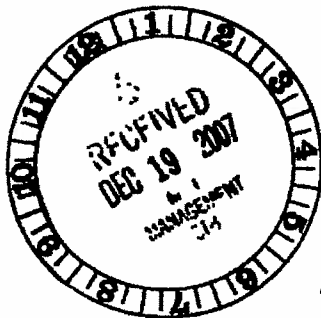
I do not believe that these localized impacts, which will be addressed fully in the STB's environmental review, outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, much less the transportation benefits of the transaction to our nation. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

Angelo 'Skip' Saviano
State Representative
77th District

cc: All Parties of Record

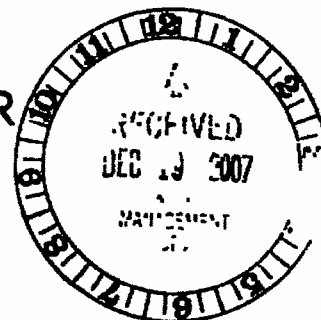


Anthony W. Arredia

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Des Plaines

1420 Miner Street
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
Telephone 847/391-5301
Fax 847/391-5378



December 12, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

221072

Subject: *Canadian National Railway Co. et al - Control - EJ&E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087*

Dear Secretary Williams

I write this letter in support of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company because this transaction will not only improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area but will reduce train traffic and congestion throughout the City of Des Plaines. I am also in agreement that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transition as quickly as possible.

I was pleased to learn that there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my city from the current level of about 19 trains per day to 2 trains per day. This will address a problem that has plagued our community for years!!

I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement that will assess the impacts of this increased traffic and impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities in order to identify issues, and address them as appropriate.

I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this transaction so that the residents of the 57th District and shippers from around the State and Nation can begin seeing the benefits it will bring.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

Tony Arredia
Mayor
City of Des Plaines, IL

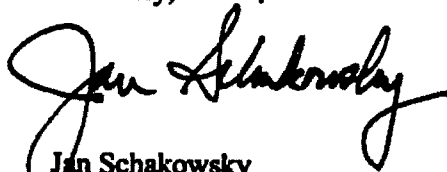
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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
December 7, 2007
Page 2

I do not believe that these localized impacts outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, or the transportation benefits that it will create for shippers in Chicago and around the country. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Schakowsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

~~October 4~~
JANICE D SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

1027 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Telephone 202 225-2111
Fax 202-225 6890
TTY 202 225 1804

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

December 7, 2007

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Fax 773 506 9202

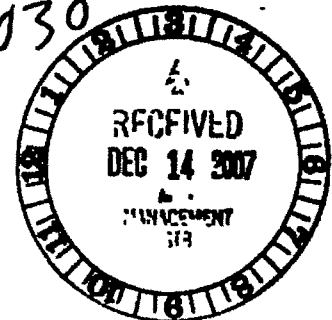
820 DAVIS STREET SUITE 105
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Telephone 847-328-3409
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The Honorable Vernon A Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D C 20423

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22/1030



Subject Canadian National Railway Co, et al - Control - EJ&E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No 35087

Dear Secretary Williams

I have reviewed the transportation impacts of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company, and it is clear that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and that it will have no adverse effects on competition. Therefore, I am pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) designated this as a "minor" transaction, as defined by the STB in its Railroad Control regulations, and ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction as quickly as possible.

I am particularly pleased to learn that the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois will see a substantial reduction of train traffic, including the communities of Rosemont and Des Plaines, from the current level of about 19 trains per day to two trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains, and will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise and grade crossing delays. More significant for the national rail transportation network, removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago will free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads.

I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the impacts of this additional traffic, and that the STB may impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.

Honorable Vernon A. Williams

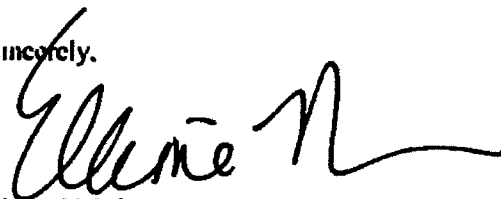
December 4, 2007

Page 2

However, these localized impacts, in my judgment, do not outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, or the transportation benefits of the transaction for shippers in Illinois and around the country. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this transaction so that the residents of the 57th District and shippers from around the state and nation can enjoy the benefits it will bring.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine N.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elaine Nekritz, State Representative
Illinois House of Representatives

District Office

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Elaine Nekritz

State Representative • 57th District

Committees

Appropriations-Higher Education
Elections & Campaign Reform (Chair)
Environment & Energy
Environmental Health
Judiciary I - Civil Law
Railroad Safety (Chair)
Renewable Energy
Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability

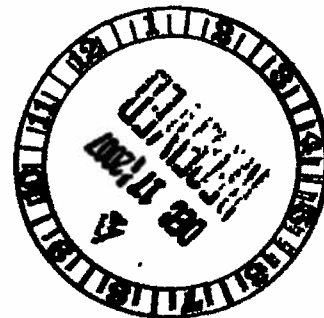
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December 4, 2007

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20123

Subject: Canadian National Railway Co. et al - Control - E.I.&E.
West Company; STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Dear Secretary Williams:

I am pleased to write in support of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the E.I.&E. West Company. I believe this purchase will result in improved freight rail service throughout the Chicago region and will dramatically reduce train traffic through the district I represent in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago.

In my role as Chair of the Illinois House Rail Committee, I have heard time and time again about the rail congestion problems plaguing the Chicago region. This congestion results in delays and other issues throughout the national rail system. If CN were to move much of its traffic to the E.I.&E. line, thus avoiding having to travel through the heart of the Chicago rail network, it could relieve some of the pressure on already overloaded facilities. This would also free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption.

I am particularly pleased to learn that there could be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of about 19 trains per day to 2 trains per day. This will create excess capacity on the line thereby enhancing the prospect for more frequent commuter trains. Moreover, the transaction will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise and grade crossing delays.

I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the E.I.&E. right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that will assess the impacts of this increased traffic. The STB can impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.